

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCI-06 NASA-04 AGR-20 EB-11 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-07 DODE-00 SS-15

NSC-10 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 H-03 DRC-01 COME-00 /164 W

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R 041300Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5609

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1235

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MA, US

SUBJ: GOMR REQUEST FOR 200,000 TONS OF RICE AND POSSIBLE LINK
TO NASA STATION AGREEMENT

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOMR HAS NOW FORMALLY REQUESTED U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP PURCHASE 200,000 TONS OF RICE. FONMIN HAS ALSO RAISED U.S. RICE ASSISTANCE IN CONTEXT DISCUSSION FUTURE RENT FOR NASA STATION. IF THERE SHOULD DEVELOP ANY PROSPECT OF MORE FAVORABLE RESPONSE THAN U.S. HAS BEEN ABLE GIVE MALAGASY TO DATE ON RICE ASSISTANCE, EMBASSY REQUESTS PROMPT WASH NOTIFICATION. EMBASSY ALSO NEEDS EXPLANATION TO MEET OMINOUS QUERY BY FONMIN ABOUT PL480 ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA AND TUNISIA IF NONE FURNISHED TO MADAGASCAR. END SUMMARY.

1. MALAGASY MOFA HAS SENT FORMAL NOTE TO EMBASSY REQUESTING U.S. GOVT ASSISTANCE IN PURCHASE 200,000 TONS OF RICE TO MEET URGENT NEEDS BETWEEN NOW AND MAY '74. FROM CONVERSATION WE KNOW THIS NOTE INSPIRED BY OFFICE OF HEAD OF GOVT.

2. SPECIFIC REQUESTS AS FOLLOW:

- (A) 150,000 TONS OF WHITE RICE, MEDIUM GRAIN, QUALITY NOGM 5, WITH 20-35 PERCENT BROKENS;
- (B) 30,000 TONS OF "CARGO" RICE;
- (C) 20,000 TONS OF RED RICE.

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3. NOTE REQUESTS U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH PL 480, DEVEL-

OPMENT LOANS OR OTHERWISE TO ACCOMPANY MALAGASY GOVT'S OWN FINANCIAL EFFORTS IN THIS AREA.

4. EMBASSY REPLYING BY REFERRING TO INFO ALREADY FURNISHED GOMR ON BASIS STATE 148864 AND 169454. EMBASSY ADDING THAT, IN VIEW OUR SYMPATHETIC AWARENESS OF IMPORTANCE THIS PROBLEM TO GOMR, WE HAVE FORWARDED FORMAL REQUEST TO WASH AND SHAWZ FURNISH INFO ON ANY CHANGES THAT MAY TAKE PLACE IN INFO PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED TO GOVT ON THIS SUBJECT. ACTION: REQUEST WASH KEEP MALAGASY REQUEST UNDER CONTINUING CONSIDERATION AND INFORM US PROMPTLY IF ANY DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR WHICH COULD MAKE U.S. GOVT CREDIT ASSISTANCE TO MADAGASCAR FOR RICE THIS YEAR POSSIBLE.

5. IN TALK WAST WEEK WITH FONMIN RATSIRAKA ON RENEWAL NASA STATION AGREEMENT, HE RAISED QUESTION OF U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MALAGASY RICE PURCHASES IN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION OF FUTURE RENT FOR NASA STATION (TANANARIVE'S 1211). I REPLIED ON BASIS INFO IN STATE 169454 THAT U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DOES NOT NOW APPEAR POSSIBLE, BUT HE OMINOUSLY BROUGHT UP U.S. PL480 ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA AND ZUNISIA.

6. ACTION: TO ENABLE ME ANSWER FONMIN'S POINT, REQUEST INFO REGARDING ANY PL480 ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA AND TUNISIA IN FY74. IF ANY PL480 OR OTHER FOOD ASSISTANCE IS SLATED FOR THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, ALSO SPECIFICALLY REQUEST EXPLANATION I CAN GIVE FONMIN AS TO WHY U.S. IS FURNISHING SUCH ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY TO GUINEA, GIVEN ITS HISTORY OF HOSTILITY TOWARD U.S., AND NOT TO MADAGASCAR WHERE THERE IS CLEAR U.S. GOVT INTEREST IN NASA STATION. I FEAR THIS COULD BECOME OUR WEAKEST LINK IN EFFORTS WARD OFF FUTURE RENT FOR NASA STATION.

7. ACCORDING TO GOVERNOR MALAGASY CENTRAL BANK RAJAOBELINA, CHINA AND U.S. REPRESENT TWO MAIN PROSPECTS FOR COVERING MALAGASY RICE DEFICIT. HE INDICATES CHINA, LIKE U.S., IS HAVING PROBLEM OF BEING ABLE RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY IN VIEW OTHER COMMITMENTS. COMMENT: AS STATNED TANA'S A-110, EMBASSY WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE CHINA USE MALAGASY RICE NEEDS TO BARGAIN FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENT PRC DIP MISSION, DEVELOPMENT NEITHER WE NOR MALAGASY WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE SEE.

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